

Ancient Egyptian Collections in Scottish Museums North East Scotland





Scottish Ancient Egyptian Collections Review Aberdeen Art Gallery & Museums, Aberdeen City Council

RECOGNISED COLLECTION OF NATIONAL SIGNIFICANCE TO SCOTLAND

Contact General enquiries <u>info@aagm.co.uk</u>

Location of Collections

In storage

Aberdeen Art Gallery Provost Skene's House

Schoolhill Guestrow Aberdeen Aberdeen AB10 1FQ AB10 1AS

Aberdeen Maritime Museum The Tolbooth Museum

Shiprow Castle Street
Aberdeen Aberdeen
AB11 5BY AB10 1EX

Aberdeen Treasure Hub Cowdray Hall

Granitehill Rd Aberdeen Art Gallery
Aberdeen Schoolbill

Aberdeen Schoolhill
AB16 7AX Aberdeen
AB10 1FQ

Size of collections

<50 objects

Published Information

Online Collections: http://www.aagm.co.uk/TheCollections

Collection Highlights

- A number of Predynastic and Early Dynastic ceramic vessels. Including black topped bowl and jar, wavy-handled jar and decorated ware (c.4000–3000 BC).
- Most noteworthy is a small Naqada II decorated ware vessel shaped to imitate a bird (c.3500–3200 BC). ABDMS003537.
- David Roberts watercolour depicting the Temple of Dendera. ABDAG003840.

Collection Overview

The small collection cared for by Aberdeen City Council is part of five sites in the city that focus on local history and art. The Egyptian collection is small but has a number of good examples of Predynastic and Early Dynastic pottery. Most of the collection was donated to the institution in the name of Royal Navy Sub-Lieutenant John Russell Stewart Bell (c.1924–1944). After John was lost at sea when his ship HMS *Asphodel* was hit by a U-boat, his father William, an Aberdeen antiques dealer, donated the collection in his memory.

The institution also cares for artworks by the Edinburgh-born Orientalist artist David Roberts (1796–1864) and Official War Artist in Egypt c.1917James McBey (1883–1959).

Known Donors and Sites Represented

Sites

Site	Excavator/season	No of Objects	Objects
Unidentified			

Donors

Donor	Category	No of Objects	Objects
John Russell Stewart	Military (Naval)	<20	
Bell (c.1924-1944)			
Donated by his father:			
William Smith Bell	Business (Antiques dealer)		

Object types

Stone vessels; ceramics; shabti; modern productions; relief fragment; glass; offering tray; carved relief

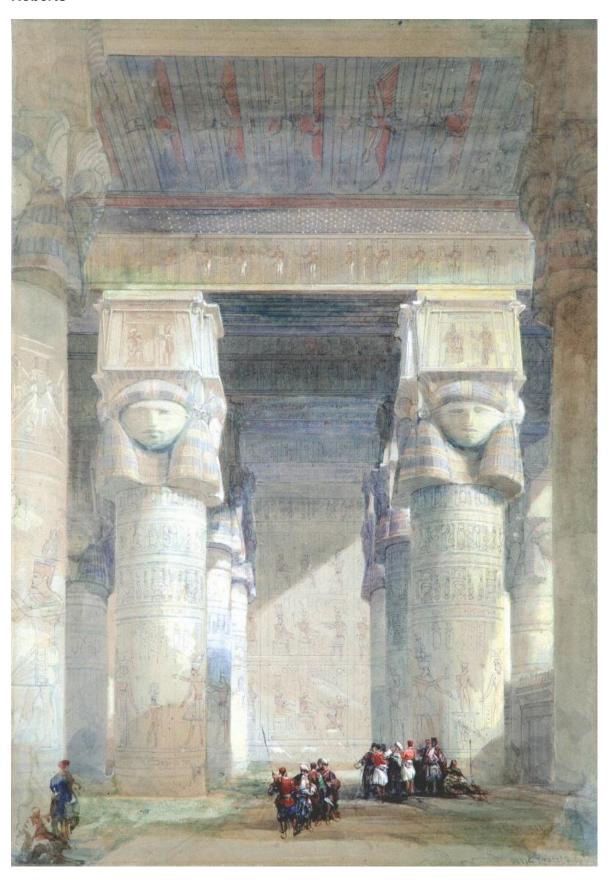
Key object images

Predynastic Naqada II decorated ware vessel, shaped like a bird



© Aberdeen City Council (Art Gallery & Museums Collections)

Ancient Tartyris, Upper Egypt, 1848, pencil and watercolour on paper by David Roberts



© Aberdeen City Council (Art Gallery & Museums Collections)

Scottish Ancient Egyptian Collections Review

Live Life Aberdeenshire Museums

Contact Fiona Clark <u>fiona.clark@aberdeenshire.gov.uk</u>

General enquiries museums@aberdeenshire.gov.uk

Location of Collections

In storage

Arbuthnot Museum St Peter Street Peterhead AB42 1QD The Discovery Centre Mintlaw Industrial Estate Station Road Mintlaw AB42 5EE

Size of collections

<30 objects

Published Information

Online Collections: http://aberdeen-asp.adlibhosting.com/

Collection Highlights

- Multiple small fragments of mummy-linen retaining their original labels, including a fragment of linen from an unwrapping conducted in Edinburgh in 1828.
- Discreet collection of bronze figures of gods, collected by a Miss Wallace, including a rare example of the goddess Isis shown as a cobra (c.664 BC AD 200).

Collection Overview

Live Life Aberdeenshire Museums' collection of ancient Egyptian material comprises around 30 small objects. This includes multiple fragments of linen, faience beads, amulets and shabtis. Some of the ancient Egypt objects originate from the collection of Peterhead-born Adam Arbuthnot (1773–1850). He belonged to a wealthy and important family of landowners and merchants based in Peterhead. When he retired from merchant business about 1820, he devoted his leisure to creating a collection of antiquities, coins and natural history. The objects were in his possession by 1840 as they appear in his handwritten catalogue of that year. On his death in 1850, he bequeathed his collection to the Provost, Magistrates and Town Council of Peterhead. The date of his collection makes this one of the earliest in Scotland. The objects reflect tourist collection practices of the early 1800s, including several fragments of mummy-linen, a sample of so-called mummy wheat, and both ancient and modern ceramics and faience objects. Several of the objects in the Arbuthnot collection were donated to him via a Miss Wallace of London. The collection also cares for a mummified

human head (male), which has been the subject of MRI and 3D scanning; it is said to have been unwrapped in Huntly in Aberdeenshire in 1829.

Known Donors and Sites Represented

Sites

Site	Excavator/season	No of Objects	Objects
Thebes		2	

Donors

Donor	Category	No of Objects	Objects
Adam Arbuthnot (1773–1850)	Business (Merchant)	2	Shabti, mummy-linen
Dr Bremner	Medical	1	Mummy-linen
(Banff)			
E Henderson (Salkine)		1	Mummy-linen
John Kerr (Inverurie)		6	Amulet, beads
Miss Wallace (London)		5	Bronze figures

Object types

Linen; mummified human remains (fragment); amulets; beads; plant remains; shabti; jewellery; bronze figures; modern productions

Key object images

Linen fragments with a clipping from *The Scotsman*, dated circa 1828, describing 'The unswathing of an Egyptian Mummy'. P1794



©Live Life Aberdeenshire Museums

Roman-Egyptian bronze amulet of the goddess Isis as a cobra



©Live Life Aberdeenshire Museums

Scottish Ancient Egyptian Collections Review University of Aberdeen

RECOGNISED COLLECTION OF NATIONAL SIGNIFICANCE TO SCOTLAND

Contact Neil Curtis <u>n.curtis@abdn.ac.uk</u>

General enquiries museums@abdn.ac.uk

Location of Collections

In storage

University of Aberdeen Museum Collections Centre Marischal College Broad Street Aberdeen AB10 1YS

Size of collections

>4,000 objects

Published Information

Online collections: https://www.abdn.ac.uk/museums/collections/

Virtual Exhibitions: https://www.abdn.ac.uk/museums/exhibitions/

Printed catalogue: Reid, R W (1912), *Illustrated Catalogue of the Anthropological Museum, University of Aberdeen.*

Collection Highlights

- The scarab collection of Dr James Grant Bey in a wooden cabinet. Each scarab is individually mounted, labelled and chronologically ordered. ABDUA:63803
- Painted wooden shabti box of Hor, priest of Montu, donated by Dr Robert Wilson.
 The inscription also gives details of Hor's father and grandfather, who were both priests in Thebes (c.1069–664 BC). ABDUA:22331
- High-quality painted wooden box coffin of Nakht, Beni Hasan, donated by John Garstang (c.2025–1700 BC). ABDUA:22156
- Writing set, with pens and several coloured ink cakes. The variety of coloured inks suggests that the set was used for painting/draught work rather than writing (c.1295– 1186 BC). ABDUA:24269
- Old Kingdom offering table in the shape of a hetep-sign, dedicated to Pery (c.2345– 2181 BC). ABDUA:21040
- Limestone stela depicting the Syrian god Reshep receiving offerings (c.1295–945 BC). ABDUA:21655

- Roman-era coffin and mummified remains of a young girl. The lid of the coffin represents the girl in colourful robes, sandals and wreath (c.AD 50–150).
 ABDUA:22116
- Old Kingdom limestone statue of the scribe Rahotep (c.2597–2355 BC).
 ABDUA:21453
- Several decorated relief fragments from the Old Kingdom Temple of Sahure at Abusir (c.248–2475 BC). ABDUA:21619-21, ABDUA:21630-32

Collection Overview

The University of Aberdeen has its origins in King's College (founded 1495) and Marischal College (founded in 1593), which merged to become the University of Aberdeen in 1860. By the late 19th century, the King's College Archaeological Museum displayed Egyptian material, which in 1907 was combined with the collections in the museum in Marischal College to become the University's Anthropological Museum (see Reid, 1912). Its thematic displays focused on the history of writing and Biblical history.

One of the earliest known donations of Egyptian material to the University collection, that of the mummified remains and coffins of a woman named Ta-Kheru, was given in 1811 by the merchant, politician and philanthropist Sir Charles Forbes (1774–1849). He had acquired them around 1800 while travelling between Aberdeen and his family business in Kolkata, India. This donation is one of the earliest known in Scotland. The presentation of objects to the University by academic employees, former students and local aristocrats became some of the most powerful drivers to the development of the collection. The University of Aberdeen's collections are particularly strong in material dating to the Old Kingdom (c.2686–2160 BC) which is generally less well-attested in UK collections.

On his death in 1871, Robert Wilson (1787–1871), a former surgeon in the East India Company and diplomatic assistant, provided the University with a financial bequest alongside a large number of objects from his own private museum. Over two hundred objects donated by Wilson are Egyptian, including an Old Kingdom offering table (ABDUA:21040), the wooden canopic jar box of Lady Tadubast (ABDUA:22147) and several royal shabtis.

Dr James Grant *Bey* (1840–1896) was educated at Aberdeen Grammar School and Aberdeen University and became a physician. He travelled to Egypt to assist with an outbreak of cholera, a service for which he received the title *Bey* from the Khedive. Whilst living in Cairo he became known as a point of contact for visiting archaeologists, acting as a broker, translator and general aide. He also maintained a large collection of antiquities in his Cairo house. He and his descendants donated over 2,000 objects to the University, including the unique presentation of his collection of scarabs, which are individually labelled, mounted and ordered within a bespoke wooden cabinet. Grant's collection also includes a fragment of a wooden mason's rule found by Waynman Dixon (1844–1930) during explorations in the Pyramid of Khufu (ABDUA:24358). These donations represent the largest number of objects attributed to a single collector in Scotland. The first display of the Grant *Bey* collection was arranged by the Aberdeen-born archaeologist and artist Annie A Quibell (née Pirie) (1862–1927), who also donated a small number of objects to the collection from the excavations in which she had been involved.

The University and its donors also supported excavations conducted by the EES, ERA, BSAE, Oxford University Excavations in Nubia, Deutsche Orient Gesellschaft and the University of Liverpool. Alongside the distributed objects, some objects were also gifted to the collection directly by archaeologists. Examples include a fragment of a shell pendant with the cartouche of Senusret, excavated by W M Flinders Petrie (1853–1942) (ABDUA:21121) and the painted wooden box coffin of a man called Nakht, excavated at Beni Hasan by John Garstang (1876–1956).

The University also cares for a large collection of Greek/Egyptian coins, said to be from Alexandria, which have not been catalogued in detail. A list of coins can be found here.

Known Donors and Sites Represented

Sites

Site	Excavator/season	No of objects	Objects
Abadiyeh	EES W M Flinders Petrie (1898–99)	4	Beads, jewellery
Abusir	Deutsche Orient Gesellschaft Ludwig Borchardt (1902–08)	5	Carved relief
Abydos	EES/ ERA W M Flinders Petrie, Hilda Petrie, Margaret A Murray (1901–03)	<80	Shabtis, ceramics, bricks, foundation deposits, beads, carved relief, figurines
Akhmim		2	Coffin, mummified human remains
Badari	BSAE W M Flinders Petrie/ Guy Brunton (1922–24)	19	Beads, ceramics, bowls, tools, cosmetics, weapons
Beni Hassan	University of Liverpool John Garstang (1903–04)	10	Ceramics, figurine, coffin, coffin fragments

Deir el Bahari	EES H Édouard Naville (1903–04)	12	Figurines, ceramic, basketry, amulets
Dendera		1	Statue
Elephantine		5	Statuette, ostraca
el-Amra	EES David Randall-MacIver (1900–01)	32	Palettes, jewellery, ceramics
el-Behnesa (Oxyrhynchus)	EES Bernard P Grenfell and Arthur S Hunt (1902–04)	>80	Ceramics, moulds, furniture, glass, beads, jewellery, cosmetics, tools, figurines
el-Gerzeh	BSAE W M Flinders Petrie (1910–11)	11	Ceramics, jewellery
el-Hibeh	EES Bernard P Grenfell and Arthur S Hunt (1901–03)	24	Shabtis, jewellery, leatherwork, beads
el-Kab		1	Stela
el-Kharga	H J L Beadnell	27	Ceramics
el-Riqqa	BSAE Reginald Englebach (1912–13)	16	Beads, scarabs, amulets, cartonnage
el-Shurafa	BSAE W M Flinders Petrie (1911)	14	Jewellery, cosmetics
Giza	BSAE W M Flinders Petrie (1910–11)	3	Ceramics

Gurob	BSAE W M Flinders Petrie (1903–04?) (1920–21)	12	Amulets, scarabs, jewellery, beads
Haraga	BSAE Reginald Englebach (1913–14)	>40	Ceramics, amulets, beads, lithics
Hawara	BSAE W M Flinders Petrie (1909–11)	7	Basketry, mummified animal remains, organics
Hierakonpolis	ERA J Edward Quibell (1897–98)	>2	Beads, ceramic
Hu	EES W M Flinders Petrie (1898–99)	38	Beads, ceramics, palettes, jewellery, cosmetics
Ihnasya el-Medina (Herakleopolis Magna)	EES	2	Weights
Lahun	BSAE W M Flinders Petrie (1913–14)	2	Tool, beads
Mahasna		26	Jewellery, ceramics, weaponry
Meidum	BSAE W M Flinders Petrie / Gerald Avery Wainwright (1909–11)	3	Ceramics, stela
Memphis	BSAE W M Flinders Petrie (1908–09)	>40	Scarabs
Naqada	W M Flinders Petrie (1894–95)	31	Ceramics, palettes
Qarara	EES Bernard P Grenfell and Arthur S Hunt (1902–03)	4	Beads, jewellery, cosmetics

Qau el-Kebir	BSAE W M Flinders Petrie / Guy Brunton (1923–24)	91	Ceramics, beads, amulets, palettes, figurines, cosmetics
Qurna	BSAE W M Flinders Petrie (1908–09)	7	Foundation deposits
Saqqara	EES W Bryan Emery (-1969)	45	Amulets, figurines, ceramics
Sedment	BSAE W M Flinders Petrie (1920–21)	53	Shabtis, figurines, mummified human remains, canopic jars, furniture, basketry, amulets, beads, cosmetics, tools, weaponry
Tarkhan (Kafr Ammar)	BSAE W M Flinders Petrie (1912–13)	36	Palettes, ceramics, figurines, amulets, linen, mummified animal remains
Tell el-Yahudiyeh		9	Architectural fragments, lithics, ceramic
Tell Timai		2	Statues
Thebes	BSAE W M Flinders Petrie (1909–11)	46	Shabtis, paint, statues, cosmetics, mummified human remains, funerary cone, ceramics, figurines, ostraca

Donors

Donor	Category	No of Objects	Objects
British School of Archaeology in Egypt	Archaeology	383	Shabtis, scarabs, amulets, beads, mummified human remains, mummified

			animal remains, ceramics, stone vessels, linen, figurines, cosmetics, palettes, funerary figures, furniture, basketry, tools, weapons
Deutsche Orient Gesellschaft	Archaeology	5	Carved relief
Egypt Exploration Society	Archaeology	242	Shabtis, ceramics, foundation deposits, furniture, basketry, leatherwork, glass, jewellery, beads, cosmetics, tools, weapons, amulets
Anderson		9	Shabtis
Grace Beadnell (Mrs Hugh John Beadnell)	Private Wife of Hugh John Llewellyn Beadnell (Cartographer)	28	Ceramics
Agnes W L Dickie		2	Shabti, jewellery/organics
Sir Charles Forbes (1774–1849)	Business/Political (Political and Business- Merchant, Forbes & Co, Bombay)	3	Coffins, mummified human remains
Miss Forbes	Private	3	Tools, coffin fragment

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John Garstang	Daughter of Rev Prof John Forbes (Academic, minister)	10	Ceramics, figurine, coffin,
(1876–1956)			coffin fragments
Dr James Grant <i>Bey</i> (1840–1896) Mrs Gordon Morrice	Medical/archaeology Grant descendent	>2,300	Scarabs, shabtis, amulets, linen, mummified human remains, figurines, carved relief, cosmetics, paint, ceramics, furniture, ostraca, mummified animal remains, bronze,
			jewellery, statues, funerary cones, cartonnage, canopic jars, coffin fragments, footwear, leatherwork, palettes, tools, plaster casts, bricks, statues, basketry
Dr Albert Henderson	Medical	1	Mummified animal remains
(1869–1947)			
Henry Quentin Forbes Irvine, 24th Laird of Drum (1908–1975)	Private (Aristocracy)	2	Brick/seal, ceramic
J W Johnston		60	Oil lamps
Via			

George Johnston			
Sydney Charlotte Keith-Falconer (née Montagu), Countess of Kintore	Private (Aristocracy)	4	Canopic jars, figurine
(1851–1932)			
Wife of 9th Earl of Kintore			
Daughter of 6th Duke of Manchester			
Dr. Alayandar Kilgaur	Medical	2	Coffin, mummified human
Dr Alexander Kilgour (1803–1874)	Wedical	2	remains
J Mearns		6	Shabti, figurines
			J. 1.1.
Sir Alexander Ogston	Medical	2	Shabtis, one via Annie A
(1844–1929)			Pirie
W M Flinders Petrie	Archaeology	83	Ceramics, faience,
	Thomasology		cosmetics, palettes, beads
(1853–1942)			
Joseph Pollard	Archaeology	>80	Amulets, shabtis, cosmetics, beads
Vio			
Via			
P E S Kennard			
	1	1	

Annie A Quibell (née Pirie)	Archaeology	3	Beads, scarab, linen
(1862–1927)			
David Randall- MacIver	Archaeology	29	Palettes, jewellery, ceramics
(1873–1945)			
Heywood Walter Seton-Karr	Archaeology	>4	Lithics
(1859–1938)			
Mrs D R Thom		2	Stone vessels
Wife of Donaldson Rose Thom	Medical/Academic		
(fl.1879–1902)			
Alexander Thomson of Banchory (1798–1868)	Private (Legal)	20	Shabtis, funerary figure, foodstuff, beads, linen
Via			
Christ's College Aberdeen	Institution		
Robert Wilson	Medical	>240	Shabtis, scarabs,
(1787–1871)	(East India Company)		figurines, beads, stone vessels, statues, canopic jars, funerary cones, amulets, ostraca

Object Types

Scarabs; shabtis; shabti boxes; amulets; linen; mummified human remains; figurines; carved relief; cosmetics; paint; ceramics; furniture; ostraca; mummified animal remains; bronze; jewellery; statues; funerary cones; cartonnage; canopic jars; coffins; coffin fragments; footwear; leatherwork; palettes; tools; plaster casts; bricks; statues; basketry; foodstuff; lithics; papyri; stone vessels; faience; coins; architectural fragments

Key Object Images

High-quality painted wooden box coffin of Nakht, Beni Hasan ABDUA:22156



Writing set, with pens and several coloured ink cakes ABDUA:24269



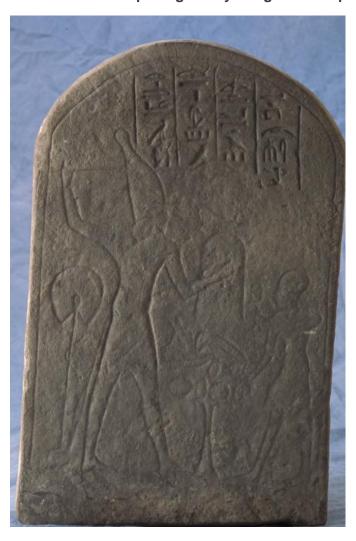
Painted wooden shabti box of Hor, priest of Montu ABDUA:22331



Ptolemaic coffin and mummified remains of a young girl. ABDUA:22116



Limestone stela depicting the Syrian god Reshep ABDUA:21655



Old Kingdom offering table in the shape of a *hetep* sign, dedicated to Pery ABDUA:21040



Statue of Rahotep ABDUA:21453



The scarab collection of Dr James Grant Bey in a wooden cabinet. ABDUA:63803



Scottish Ancient Egyptian Collections Review

Elgin Museum, The Moray Society

Contact <u>curator@elginmuseum.org.uk</u>

Location of Collections

In storage

Elgin Museum 1 High Street Elgin IV30 1EQ

Size of collections

<35 objects

Published Information

Online Collections: Not currently online

Collection Highlights

 The objects in the collection are largely unidentified but preliminary research has identified the donations of a few members of the local aristocracy, one of whom also donated objects to the nearby Falconer Museum.

Collection Overview

Elgin Museum opened in 1843 and is one of Scotland's oldest independent museums. The idea for a museum had been discussed in 1836 as a place 'for the collection and preservation of objects of Science and Virtue'. The Elgin and Morayshire Scientific Association (The Moray Society today) purchased a plot of land and had a museum built. The collections continued to grow and, in 1896, an extension was added to the building. More recent refurbishments include a complete overhaul between 1988 and 1990, and the redesign of the Main Gallery with Heritage Lottery Funding in 2003. Today the museum cares for 36,000 objects and remains independently owned and managed. Alongside ancient objects, the collection also includes modern Egyptian objects, British military medals and a collection of lantern slides depicting Egyptian scenes.

Historic donations registers record a number of objects which are no longer in the collections, notably several examples of mummified human remains and associated linen.

Known Donors and Sites Represented

Sites

Site	Excavator/season	No of Objects	Objects
Unknown			

Donors

Donor	Category	No of Objects	Objects
Lady Anne Pitcairn Gordon-Cumming of Altyre (d.1888)	Aristocracy Wife of Sir Alexander Penrose Gordon-Cumming, 3rd Baronet (1816–1866)	2	Ceramics
Miss Pringle (Elgin)		2	Mummified animal remains, jewellery (modern?)
Earl of Seafield Likely James Ogilvy-Grant 9th Earl of Seafield (1817–1888)	Aristocracy/ Politician	6	Ceramics, jewellery
T Stephen (Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada)		4	Shabtis
H Wilson (Elgin)		1	Scarab?
Hugh Young		1	Lithic

Object types

Ceramics; shabti; jewellery; coins; mummified animal remains; lithics; modern productions?; scarab?

Scottish Ancient Egyptian Collections Review

Falconer Museum (Forres), Moray Council

Please Note: The Falconer Museum will be closed for a minimum of two years from April 2020.

Contact details access.point@moray.gov.uk (General council contact)

Location of Collections

In storage

Falconer Museum Tolbooth Street Forres IV36 1PH

Size of collections

<30 objects

Published Information

Online Collections: Not currently online

Collection Highlights

- Sherd of New Kingdom painted pottery depicting the goddess Hathor; this style of pottery is usually associated with royal palace sites (c.1550–1295 BC). 1978-225.
- Fragmentary stone stela dedicated to Hathor, Temple of Hatshepsut, Deir el-Bahari (c.1550–1295 BC). 1978-226.
- Painted plaster fragment, inscribed with dedication to Osiris, possibly from a cartonnage mummy case.

Collection Overview

Founded in 1871 following a bequest from geologist Hugh Falconer (1808–1865), the museum sits on the High Street in Forres. The Falconer Museum's collection includes a bronze Osiris figure, faience shabtis, faience scarabs, ceramic sherds, a fragmentary stone stela and lithic material. Two of the objects were donated to the collection by Lady A P Gordon-Cumming of Altyre. Given the 1880 date of the acquisitions, this is likely Lady Anne Pitcairn Gordon-Cumming (d.1888), the wife of Sir Alexander Penrose Gordon-Cumming, 3rd Baronet (1816–1866).

Two notable highlights of the small collection depict the cow goddess Hathor; one a rare example of painted pottery from the New Kingdom, the other a small stone stela depicting Hathor in the lower register. The stela is said to come from the area of Deir el-Bahari, an important area associated with the goddess.

Known Donors and Sites Represented

Sites

Site	Excavator/season	No of Objects	Objects
Alexandria		1	Fragment of
			Pompey's pillar
Giza		2	Shabti
Thebes (Karnak and Deir el-Bahari)		3	Ceramic, stone, stone stela
Valley of the Kings	Giovanni Battista Belzoni	1	Cast of seal

Donors

Donor	Category	No of Objects	Objects
Lady Anne Pitcairn	Aristocracy	1	Ceramic
Gordon-Cumming of			
Altyre	Wife of Sir		
	Alexander Penrose		
(d.1888)	Gordon-Cumming, 3 rd Baronet (1816–1866)		
Hugh Mackenzie (Mumbai)	Military (Bengal Army)	2	Coins

Object types

Shabtis; bronze; coins; linen; lithics; ceramics; faience; statues; stela; cartonnage

Key Object Images

Painted plaster fragment, with inscription dedicated to Osiris, possibly from a cartonnage mummy case. 1982-58



Sherd of New Kingdom painted pottery depicting the goddess Hathor. 1978-225



Fragmentary stone stela dedicated to Hathor, Temple of Hatshepsut, Deir el-Bahari. 1978-226

